

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Divisional of U.S. Appln. No. 09/255,699 (Q66129)

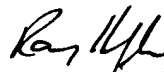
REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested. By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants (1) cancel claims 1, 2, and 10-12, (2) rewrite claims 5, 13, and 17 in independent form, and (3) amends the remaining claims to depend from either claim 5 or 13. Claims 3-9 and 13-17 are the only claims pending in the application.

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the application on the merits at the earliest possible time. If the Examiner would like to discuss any points through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: July 15, 2003